

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 26-____-PET

De Minimis Application of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems,)
LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, for a Certificate of Public Good,)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the modification)
of telecommunications equipment on an existing facility)
in Swanton, Vermont)

Order entered:

I. INTRODUCTION

In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") approves the application filed by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC, d/b/a Verizon ("Applicant"), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, and the Commission's *Order Adopting Revised Standards and Procedures Implementing 30 V.S.A. § 248a*, issued by the Commission on January 18, 2023 and grants the Applicant a certificate of public good ("CPG") authorizing modification of wireless telecommunications equipment on an existing facility in the Town of Swanton, Vermont (the "Project").

II. BACKGROUND

This case involves a petition and prefiled testimony filed by the Applicant on March 24, 2026, requesting that the Commission issue a CPG, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing modification of wireless telecommunications equipment located on an existing facility in the Town of Swanton, Vermont. The Applicant is seeking approval for the project as *de minimis* modifications to an existing support structure, pursuant to §248a(b)(2).

On _____, 2026, the Department of Public Service (the "Department") filed a letter with the Commission recommending that the Commission issue an order approving the petition without additional hearings or investigation.

No statutory party has objected to the classification of the Project as *de minimis* and no other comments regarding the petition have been filed with the Commission.

The Commission has determined that the petition and prefiled testimony have effectively addressed the applicable substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248a. Consequently, we find that the procedure authorized by § 248a is sufficient to satisfy the public interest, and no hearings are required.

III. FINDINGS

Based upon the application and its accompanying documents, the Commission makes the following findings in this matter:

1. Verizon proposes to modify an existing wireless telecommunication facility located on a 70' above ground level ("AGL") silo ("Silo") located at 54 Woods Hill Road in the Town of Swanton. Verizon refers to the Project as "Swanton South SC1 VT". The coordinates of the Project are latitude 44.896347 North and longitude -73.082878 West. The location of the Project is shown on Exhibit LH-1 Permit Plans. The property owner has given Verizon permission to proceed with this application.

2. On April 24, 2017 the Public Utility Commission ("PUC") approved the Petition of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems of Allentown, Inc. and Cellco Partnership each d/b/a Verizon Wireless in Case No. 17-2673-PET authorizing the installation of Verizon's equipment on the Silo. This project consists of modifications to the equipment installed pursuant to the Order and CPG.

3. Verizon currently has two (2) antennas, one (1) remote radio head ("RRH"), and one (1) 6-Port OVP distribution box installed on the Silo.

4. Verizon now proposes to remove two (2) antennas which each measure 6.02 sq. ft. and one (1) RRH which measures 1.80 sq. ft.

5. They will be replaced by three (3) antennas on the Silo, two (2) of which measure 5.92 sq. ft. and one (1) of which measure 3.16 sq. ft. See Permit Plans at Sheets C-2 and C-3. The Antennas will be mounted at the centerline, 62' AGL. The topmost height of the Antennas will

extend to 65' AGL.

6. Verizon also proposes to install two (2) RRHs, one (1) of which will measure 1.55 sq. ft., and one (1) of which will measure 2.62 sq. ft., and one (1) NGOVP which measures 0.83 square feet.

7. The aggregate visible surface area of the existing equipment installed on the Silo is 15.94 square feet. Following the proposed modification, the aggregate visible facial surface area will be 22.1 square feet. Full and accurate specifications of the proposed Antennas, RRHs, and NGOVP are detailed in Exhibit MM-1.¹

8. All-Points Technology Corporation prepared a Mount and Global Analysis Report (See Exhibit LH-2) on behalf of Verizon for this project dated December 17, 2025, which concluded that the Silo has sufficient capacity to support the proposed modifications.

9. Verizon will add one (1) 3x6 fiber hybrid cable, which will run from Verizon's shelter at the base of the Silo, up the Silo to connect to the existing equipment. Verizon will also add four (4) 1/2" Coaxial Cables and one (1) 1x4 Fiber jumper, between the remote radio heads and the antennas.

10. Verizon will gain access to the Silo using the existing access and parking lot.

11. Existing on-site utilities will provide electrical, propane, and telephone services to the site.

12. No site clearing is necessary and there no new impervious surface area will be created. There will be no changes to: (1) the property boundaries and setbacks, (2) utilities,

¹ From time to time, equipment manufacturers may slightly alter their products or Verizon Wireless may purchase from different suppliers. Therefore, there is a possibility that the actual antennas may differ slightly from what is described in the attached specifications.

(3) wetlands, (4) drainage or erosion control, (5) screening, landscaping, ground cover, fencing, exterior lighting and signage, or (6) access to the Silo.

13. The aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the Antennas and improvements will increase by 6.16 square feet following the modification.

14. The Project will result in no additional impervious surface area.

IV. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248a(b)(2), the Amended Procedures Order defines a *de minimis* modification as:

the addition, modification, or replacement of telecommunications equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on a telecommunications facility or existing support structure..., or the reconstruction of such facility or support structure, provided:

(a) the height and width of the facility or support structure, excluding equipment, antennas or ancillary improvements, are not increased;

(b) the total amount of impervious surface, including access roads, surrounding the facility or support structure is not increased by more than 300 square feet;

(c) the addition, modification, or replacement of an antenna or any other equipment on a facility or support structure does not extend vertically more than 10 feet above the facility or support structure and does not extend horizontally more than 10 feet from the facility or support structure;

(d) the additional equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure, excluding cabling, does not increase the aggregate surface area of the faces of the equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure by more than 75 feet.

Pursuant to the Procedures Order at Section II:

For the purpose of this definition, where the proposed ancillary improvements will be installed on, within, or at the base of a building, the ancillary improvements may be excluded from the aggregate surface area calculation in subsection (d) provided that: (1) the ancillary improvements comply with the limitations in subsection (c) measured from the outer walls of the building (for width) and the highest existing element of the building (for height); (2) the aggregate surface area of the antennas and equipment other than ancillary improvements does not exceed 75 square feet;

and (3) any other additions, modifications, or replacements associated with the facility otherwise comply with subsections (a) and (b).

Further, pursuant to § 248a(k) and Section VIII of the Procedures Order, regarding *de minimis* modifications:

If no objections to the classification of the project are timely filed with the Commission, a CPG shall be issued without further proceedings.

The proposed Project will consist of the modification of telecommunications equipment located on an existing facility. The Project, excluding equipment, antennas and ancillary improvements, will not increase the height or width of the Silo or the facility, and will result in no additional impervious surface area. The aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the Antennas to be installed on the Silo following the modification will increase by 6.16 square feet. No Antennas will extend vertically more than 10' from the top of the Silo. No Antennas will extend more than 10' horizontally from the Silo. Therefore, the Project qualifies as a "*de minimis* modification" to an existing facility pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2). Further, no objections to the classification of the Project as a *de minimis* modification have been filed with the Commission.

Based upon all of the above evidence, the public interest is satisfied by the procedures authorized in 30 V.S.A. § 248a and the proposed Project will promote the general good of the State.

V. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission of the State of Vermont that:

1. The modifications to the wireless telecommunications facility at the location specified in the above findings, by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC, d/b/a Verizon ("Verizon"), in accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont in accordance with 30 V.S.A. §248a(a) and a certificate of public good to that effect shall be issued in this matter.

2. As a condition of this Order, the Petitioners shall comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

_____))
_____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
_____)) COMMISSION
_____)) OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Clerk of the Commission

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within ten days of the date of this decision and order.

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the modification)
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Order entered:

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD ISSUED
PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. SECTION 248a**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") this day found and adjudged that the proposed modification of telecommunications equipment ("Project") by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, on a Building located at 54 Woods Hill Road, Swanton, Vermont will promote the general good of the State, subject to the following conditions:

1. Operation and maintenance of the Project shall be in accordance with the plans and evidence submitted in this proceeding. Any material or substantial change in the Project is prohibited without prior Commission approval. Failure to obtain advance approval from the Commission for a material deviation or substantial change from the approved plans may result in the assessment of a pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 247.
2. The Project shall comply with all applicable existing and future statutory requirements and Commission Rules and Orders.
3. The Certificate of Public Good shall not be transferred without approval of the Commission.

Signatures on next page

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

_____	)	
_____	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
_____	)	
_____	)	COMMISSION
_____	)	
_____	)	OF VERMONT
_____	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: _____

ATTEST: _____
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